

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING STATUS INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH A PLURALITY OF USERS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 In accordance with the preferred embodiments of the present invention, a method (400) and an apparatus (e.g., mobile station (160)) for providing status information associated with a plurality of users of real-time communication service. The mobile station (160) provides a plurality of logon identifiers associated with a first subscriber.

Each of the plurality of logon identifiers corresponds to one of the plurality of users so

10 that the plurality of users may access real-time communication service via the first subscriber. The plurality of logon identifiers may be, but is not limited to, a first name, a

last name, a persona, an IP address, and a port number. The mobile station (160) monitors status associated with the plurality of logon identifiers to provide status

information. The status information may be, but is not limited to, information indicating

15 one of on-line, off-line, busy, away, on-the-phone, out-to-lunch, and nearby.

Accordingly, the mobile station (160) transmits the status information associated with one of the plurality of logon identifiers to a second subscriber having a contact list including the one of the plurality of logon identifiers.

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